



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **USAID raises the quality of student testing in Macedonia**

USAID, in cooperation with the State Examination Center (SEC) and the Macedonian Civic Education Center (MCEC), held an event to **promote improved student assessment in Macedonia**. The event highlighted two USAID activities: **the e-test items bank**, an on-line repository of high-quality test items used by teachers to develop improved tests for their classrooms, and **cartoons on quality and fair school-based assessment**.

The goal of the e-test items bank is to raise the quality of student testing through on-line support to teachers. The test items are developed by and for teachers. The activity also helps identify good test item authors and to collect a pool of quality test items for use by SEC. The cartoons, developed by the famous Macedonian cartoonist Darko Markovic (Dar-Mar), promote ethics in student assessment and deal with real-life issues such as how teachers can resist pressure to give higher grades than a student earns.

'Through USAID's Primary Education Project and in collaboration with SEC, we have established the e-test items bank, the first of its kind in Macedonia. However, the long term impact and sustainability of this work will be secured only if it is a part of a comprehensive national assessment system", said USAID Program Office Director, LeAnna Marr.

Improving school-based assessment in Macedonia is a component of the USAID Primary Education Project (PEP) which aims to improve the quality of teaching and learning and to optimize individual student progress. USAID PEP developed national standards for school-based assessment, trained teachers in assessment, and introduced a code of assessment ethics to schools.

The event gathered over 50 representatives from educational institutions, schools, SEC, the Bureau for Development of Education, and the Ministry of Education and Science.

#### **NOTE TO EDITORS:**

The American people, through USAID, have invested over \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.